



# Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

Genie Chough, Chair  
3rd District  
Dorinne Jordan, Vice-Chair  
2nd District  
Louisa Ollague  
1st District  
Carl Gallucci  
4th District  
Lori Glasgow  
5th District

## ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

January 10, 2012

16 January 10, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

### **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

Request to extend the sunset review date for the Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission; and amendment to the County Code to specify how often the Commission should meet.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve introduction of an ordinance extending the Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission's sunset review date to July 1, 2015.
2. Instruct the Department of Health Services (DHS) to work with County Counsel to amend County Code Chapter 3.32 to add a section specifying how often the Commission should meet.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

At its meeting held October 20, 2011, the Los Angeles County Audit Committee considered and approved the attached recommendations of the Auditor-Controller.

The Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission (Commission) was established by the Board under Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.32. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension on September 8, 2009 through December 1, 2009.

The Commission consults with, advises and makes recommendations to the Board and the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) on patient-care policies and programs of the County's

hospital system, including:

- The need for additional hospitals and/or other patient care facilities
- The relationships between County hospitals and/or other public or private health care facilities
- Hospital staffing issues

The Commission also acts as a liaison between the Director of DHS, the Board and the public in matters relating to the County's hospital system.

During this review period, the Commission noted the following accomplishments:

- Conducted three site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers in the year 2010. During the site visits, Commissioners met with management to tour facilities, discussed operational concerns, and reported observations/issues to DHS and/or the Board.
- Consulted with DHS on the transition to the new LAC+USC Medical Center, and recommended DHS improve efforts to contract with private health plan providers for LAC+USC.
- Recommended DHS implement a communication plan when the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center is opened to ensure accurate and prompt communication between inpatient and outpatient staff.
- Provided feedback to DHS on their Quality Measures Dashboard website, which informs the public how well County hospitals provide health care.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Commissioners receive compensation of \$25 for each meeting or facility site inspection attended, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections in any one calendar month. During the evaluation period, ten Commissioners waived their stipends, and the remaining five Commissioners received stipends. For Fiscal year 2009-10, DHS estimated spending approximately \$3,500 for Commission staff support, parking, and stipends.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. The County Code does not specify how frequently the Commission is required to meet; however, the Commission met sixteen times between July 2007 and June 2010 (approximately five times a year), with an average attendance of 6.7 (45%) members. Because the Commission's meeting frequency is not indicated in the County Code, it is recommended DHS work with County Counsel to amend County Code Chapter 3.32 to add a section specifying how often the Commission should meet.

The Commission recognizes its low average attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting notices to members, reminding members about the importance of attending meetings, and working with the Board to fill vacancies. Although the average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

For the next evaluation period, the Commission's objectives are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.
- Create a new sub-committee to consider the impact of new health care reform legislation.
- Share information about the private health care industry that may benefit the operations of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Lori Glasgow', with a stylized, flowing script.

LORI GLASGOW

Chair

GC:vn

Enclosures

c: Marcy L. Zwelling-Aamot, M.D., Chair, Hospitals  
and Health Care Delivery Commission  
Gerardo Pinedo, Government Relations Director,  
Department of Health Services  
Wendy L. Watanabe, Auditor-Controller  
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer of the Board  
Janet Logan, Chief of Board Operations  
Angie Johnson, Chief of Commission Services



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS  
JOHN NAIMO  
JAMES L. SCHNEIDERMAN  
JUDI E. THOMAS

October 6, 2011

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS  
AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission's (Commission) sunset review date to July 1, 2015.

The Department of Health Services (DHS or Department) work with County Counsel to revise the County Code to include how often the Commission should meet.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board established and has continued the Commission pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.32. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in September 2009.

The Commission consults with, advises, and makes recommendations to the Director of DHS and the Board on patient-care policies and programs of the County's hospital system, including:

- The need for additional hospitals and/or other patient care facilities
- The relationships between County hospitals, and other public or private health care facilities
- Hospital staffing issues



The Commission also acts as a liaison between the Director of DHS, the Board and the public in matters relating to the County's hospital system.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. Commissioners receive \$25 for each meeting and facility site inspection attended, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections per month. During our review period, five Commissioners received stipends, and the remaining ten Commissioners waived their stipends. DHS estimates that they spent approximately \$3,500 for Commission staff support, parking, and stipends during Fiscal Year 2009-10.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission met 16 times between July 2007 and June 2010 (approximately five times a year), with an average attendance of 6.7 (45%) members. The Commission recognizes its low average attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting notices to members, reminding members about the importance of attending meetings, and working with the Board to fill vacancies.

The County Code does not specify how often the Commission is required to meet. As a result, we cannot comment on the number of meetings the Commission held during the review period. We recommend DHS work with County Counsel to revise the County Code to include how often the Commission should meet.

Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties. During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Conducting three site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers in 2010. During the site visits, Commissioners met with management to tour facilities, discussed operational concerns, and reported observations/issues to DHS and/or the Board.
- Consulting with DHS on the transition to the new LAC+USC Medical Center, and recommending DHS improve efforts to contract with private health plan providers for LAC+USC.
- Recommending DHS implement a communication plan when the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center is opened to ensure accurate and prompt communication between inpatient and outpatient staff.
- Providing feedback to DHS on their *Quality Measures Dashboard* website, which informs the public how well County hospitals provide health care.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.
- Create a new sub-committee to consider the impact of new health care reform legislation.
- Share information about the private healthcare industry that may benefit the operations of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Campbell at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RGC:TK

Attachments

c: Marcy L. Zwelling-Aamot, M.D., Chair, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission  
Gerardo Piñedo, Government Relations Director, Department of Health Services  
Janet Logan, Chief, Board Operations  
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the Board order establishing the Commission. **CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission consults and advises the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Board on patient-care policies and programs of the County's hospital system.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission met 16 times between July 2007 and June 2010 (approximately five times a year), with an average attendance of 6.7 (45%) members. Because the Commission does not have a specific required meeting frequency, we cannot comment on the number of meetings the Commission held during the review period.

The Commission's attendance is **UNSATISFACTORY.** The Commission recognizes its low attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting notices to members, reminding members about the importance of attending meetings, and working with the Board to fill vacancies. Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Conducting three site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers in 2010. During the site visits, Commissioners met with management to tour facilities, discussed operational concerns, and reported observations/issues to DHS and/or the Board.



- Consulting with DHS on the transition to the new LAC+USC Medical Center, and recommending DHS improve efforts to contract with private health plan providers for LAC+USC.
- Recommending DHS implement a communication plan when the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center is opened to ensure accurate and prompt communication between inpatient and outpatient staff.
- Providing feedback to DHS on their *Quality Measures Dashboard* website, which informs the public how well County hospitals provide health care.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.
- Create a new sub-committee to consider the impact of new health care reform legislation.
- Share information about the private healthcare industry that may benefit the operations of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners receive \$25 per meeting and for each facility site inspection attended, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections per month. During our review period, five Commissioners received stipends, and the remaining ten Commissioners waived their stipends. DHS estimates that they spent approximately \$3,500 for Commission staff support, parking, and stipends during Fiscal Year 2009-10.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION TO JULY 1, 2015.**



# Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission Attendance Record

Commissioner	Nominated by:	9/30/07	12/31/07	3/31/08	6/30/08	9/30/08	12/31/08	3/31/09	6/30/09	9/30/09	12/31/09	3/31/10	6/30/10	Totals	% Attended
Number of Meetings per Quarter		1	1	2	0	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	16	
Vacant	1st District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant	1st District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant	1st District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Gloria D. Gray	2nd District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Edward W. Savage, Jr., M.D.	2nd District	1												1	100%
John DeRon Johnson	2nd District					1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	6	50%
Kevin Charles Thomas, M.D.	2nd District					1	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	10	83%
Vacant	2nd District	0	0	0	0									0	0%
Vacant	2nd District													0	0%
Charles Aronberg, M.D.	3rd District	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	9	56%
Stacy Rummel Bratcher, Esq.	3rd District	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	14	88%
Lucien Wulsin, J.D.	3rd District	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	44%
Faustino Bernadett, M.D.	4th District	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	8	50%
Paul Hirsch, M.D.	4th District	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	1			9	75%
Marcy L. Zwelling-Aamot, M.D.	4th District	1	1	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	15	94%
Vacant	4th District													0	0%
Eduardita Eolani Quevedo, M.D.	5th District	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	8	50%
Stanley M. Toy, Jr., M.D.	5th District	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	10	63%
Geraldine Tevrian, R.D.H.	5th District	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	10	63%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>107</b>	

Average Attendance per Meeting →

6.7

**Legend:**  
 Vacancy filled or Commissioner did not serve during this period.